

REMARKS

Claims 6-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by previously-cited Zeleny et al. (US 6,215,894). Claims 6-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by previously-cited Noblett (US 6,362,004). Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by previously-cited Perttunen et al. (US 5,968,728).

In the Advisory Action dated October 22, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the arguments presented in the Response filed September 22, 2003 were convincing with respect to the rejection of claims 6-15 over the Noblett reference. Thus, the Response was effective in overcoming this rejection. Therefore, since claims 8 and 11 were not rejected on any other basis, claims 8 and 11 are no longer rejected. The status of claims 8 and 11, in light of the Response and Advisory Action, was confirmed in a telephone call to the Examiner on November 18, 2003.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant seeks to cancel claims 6, 9, and 12-17 and rewrite claims 8 and 11 in independent form by the present Amendment to place claims 8 and 11 in form for allowance. Also, Applicant seeks to amend claims 7 and 10 so that they depend from claims 8 and 11, respectively, due to the multiple dependency in claims 8 and 11, thereby placing claims 7 and 10 in form for allowance.

The limitations of the claims as amended herein have already been examined. Thus, the present Amendment does not add any new issues requiring further consideration by the Examiner.

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 09/749,752

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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